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ORGANIZATION OF THE MINISTRY OF TRADE USSR

The Ministry of Trade USSR manages about half of all retail trade in the USSR. However, the majority of trade organizations are subordinated to the ministries of trade of union republics and trade divisions of executive committees of soviets of workers deputies.(1)

The most important function of the Ministry of Trade USSR is to plan and regulate domestic consumer trade. In addition, it manages public eating enterprises and the kolkhoz market trade.

The functions of the Ministry of Trade USSR are as follows:

1. To draw up plans for the development of wholesale and retail trade and public eating enterprises, as well as plans for the total trade turnover of goods. It presents these plans for approval to the USSR government and directs the execution of the approved plans.
2. To work out and submit for government approval plans for the distribution and supply of consumers' goods. It establishes the plans for the delivery of consumers' goods to trade organizations and controls the distribution of goods so as to assure an uninterrupted supply of an established assortment of goods to all regions.
3. To set and submit for government approval retail prices and the amounts of permissible price cuts and markups on consumers' goods. It strictly enforces the established prices and takes measures against price violations, false weighing and measuring, and other practices which defraud the consumer. It also takes part in the setting of wholesale prices on consumers' goods by industrial ministries.
4. To receive from industrial organizations information and data on production and shipments of consumers' goods. It also checks on whether trade bases and industrial enterprises fulfill plans for the shipment of consumers' goods, and on the quality of goods shipped.

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5. To set requirements for the production of a varied assortment of consumers' goods and for the output of new types and qualities of commodities. It organizes trade in consumers' goods and takes measures for the expansion of consumers' goods markets.

6. To work out and control the execution of measures for the expansion and improvement of kolkhoz market trade, and for the equipping, construction, and organization of market places and fairs.

7. To draw up trade legislation and establish rules of trade for all trade organizations. The ministry also exercises control over the observance by trade organizations and enterprises of all laws, government rules, and decrees regulating trade.

Together with the planning and regulating functions indicated above, the Ministry of Trade USSR, through its main administrations, all-union offices, and local organs, directs the economic operations of subordinate trade enterprises by establishing for them plans for the sale and procurement of products, marketing expenditures, financial plans, etc.

According to the USSR Constitution, the Ministry of Trade USSR is a union republic ministry. Each of the union and autonomous republics has a ministry of trade.

There are trade divisions (torgotdels), engaged in planning and regulating trade and attached to executive committees of soviets of workers deputies, in every kray, oblast, city, and rayon.

The principal parts of the Ministry of Trade USSR are as follows:

Planning and Economic Administration

Administration for Trade in Food Products

Administration for Trade in Industrial Goods

Administration for Trade in Grains and Fodder

Financial Division

Labor and Wages Division

Personnel Administration and others

In addition, the Ministry of Trade USSR has the following functional main administrations and all-union offices:

Glavgastronom (Main Administration of Delicatessens and Groceries)

Glavunivermag (Main Administration of Model Department Stores for the Sale of Industrial Goods)

Glavvoyentorg (Main Administration of Trading Enterprises for the USSR Armed Forces)

Glavtorgmorstrans (Main Administration of Maritime Trade)

Glavdorrestoran Vostoka (Main Administration of Railroad Lunch Counters and Restaurants of the East)

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Glavdorrestoran Yuga (Main Administration of Railroad Lunch Counters and Restaurants of the South)

Glavdorrestoran Zapada i Severa (Main Administration of Railroad Lunch Counters and Restaurants of the West and North)

Mosglavrestoran (Moscow Main Administration of Restaurants)

Lenglavrestoran (Leningrad Main Administration of Restaurants)

Glavtorgplodoovoshch (Main Administration for Procurement and Sale of Fruits and Vegetables)

Glavsnab (Main Administration of Supply)

Glavtorgmash (Main Administration for the Production of Commercial Machines and Equipment)

Glavyuvelirtorg (Main Administration for Jewelry Production and Trade)

Glavkurorttorg (Main Administration for Trade at Health Resorts)

Soyuzoptgalantereya (All-Union State Office for Wholesale Trade in Haberdashery, Knitted and Sewn Goods, Fur, and Carpets)

Soyuzoptmetiztorg (All-Union State Office for Wholesale Trade in Metal Products)

Soyuzoptkul'ttorg (All-Union State Office for Wholesale Trade in Stationery and Cultural Goods)

The above administrations and offices have their own enterprises. The local trade organizations and trusts are subordinated to the local regulating organs such as union republic ministries of trade, and the oblast, kray, city, and rayon trade divisions.(2)

#### SOURCES

1. S. V. Serebryakov, Organizatsiya i Tekhnika Sovetskoy Torgovli (Organization and Technique of Soviet Trade), Gostorgizdat, 1949, pp 33 ff.
2. F. Ya. Oblovatskiy, Ekonomika i Planirovaniye Sovetskoy Torgovli (Economics and Planning of Soviet Trade), Gostorgizdat, 1949, pp 64-65.

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